

DO NOT ENTER
SW 8/25/06
IN THE CLAIMS

Serial No. 10/691,846

Claim 1 (Currently Amended). A self-expanding stent and stent delivery system comprising: an elongated core member having proximal and distal portions including a proximal cylindrical member disposed at the distal portion of said elongated core member, and a distal cylindrical member disposed at the distal portion of said elongated core member and positioned distally of said proximal cylindrical member and being spaced apart from said proximal cylindrical member to define a gap having a predetermined length;

a self-expanding stent comprised of a small diameter skeletal tubular member having an outer cylindrical surface which defines a thin wall, said wall of said skeletal tubular member including a plurality of cells which are formed by a plurality of interconnected strut members, and an anchor member placed on one of said plurality of strut members and at an end of said stent and having a length less than the length of the gap between the proximal cylindrical member and the distal cylindrical member, and said self-expanding stent being mounted and compressed onto said elongated core member such that said anchor member is interlocked within said gap and between said proximal cylindrical member and said distal cylindrical member to thereby retain said stent on said elongated core member; and

an actuatable retaining ring is disposed around the outer cylindrical surface of said self-expanding stent at said anchor member for retaining said stent onto said elongated core member in a compressed state and said anchor member in said gap, for upon actuation, releasing said self-expanding stent to permit said anchor member to move toward the wall of a vessel and the stent to expand against the wall of the vessel and to permit the actuated retaining ring to be removed from the released stent.

Claim 2 (Original). A self-expanding stent and stent delivery system as defined in Claim 1, wherein said self-expanding stent has proximal and distal portions, and said actuatable retaining ring is disposed around the proximal portion of said stent.